National Highways in Madhya Pradesh

3372. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of the National Highways in the State of Madhya Pradesh; and

(b) what steps are being taken to improve their conditions and whether Union Government is proposing to declare some more roads as the National Highways in the State of Madhya Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) Nine.

(b) Improvement and upgradation of National Highways is a continuous process. Upgradation works are under taken keeping in view the existing condition of National Highways, traffic intensity, *inter-se* priority, availability of resources. 88 estimates amounting to about Rs. 23 crores for development of National Highways in Madhya Pradesh have been sanctioned during 1988-89 so far. At present there is no proposal to declare more roads as National Highways in the State of Madhya Pradesh.

Appointment of Director of National Institute of Public Cooperative and Child Development, New Delhi

3373. SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have installed an IAS Officer without any professional training and background as Director of National Institute of Public Cooperative and Child Development, New Delhi (NIPCCD), and if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) whether Government are aware of the widespread discontent amongst professional staff as a result thereof; and

(c) whether Government are also aware that such appointments would bring down NIPCCD in estimation of other professional; national and international institutions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) An IAS Officer with more than eighteen years of varied experience in different fields was appointed as Director of the National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD). This appointment was made in view of the immediate needs of the Institute which was then facing acute administrative problems.

(b) No reports of any discontent amongst the professional staff of the Institute have been received.

(c) It is not apprehended that NIPCCD would go down in the estimation of other professional institutions because of this appointment.

Joint Defence Pact of India and Pakistan

3374. SHRI PRITHIBI MAJHI: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the press report that appeared in the National Herald of 6th March, 1989 to the effect that Pakistan's Prime Minister has ruled out a joint defence pact with India; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The question of a joint defence pact with Pakistan is not under consideration. Government have taken note of the Pakistan Prime Minister's response on the subject.

Widening the Cooperation with USSR in Aviation Sector

3375. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received proposals to widen cooperation between USSR and India in the fields of production of civil aircraft, construction of airports, training in catering and management etc.;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the views of Government on various aspects of the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (c) Protocols have been signed between India and USSR for wider cooperation in the aviation sector. The areas covered are (1) facilities to be provided to Aeroflot at the Institute of Airport Management in New Delhi; (2) participation in joint ventures for Airport Terminal Building construction, flight kitchen and duty free shop at Tashkent and other airports; (3) wet-leasing of aircraft by Aeroflot to Indian Airlines; (4) joint operations by Aeroflot and Air India; (5) operation of domestic cargo services in India by IL-76 aircraft currently on charter agreement between Air India and Aeroflot; (6) operation of one way charter cargo operation from Delhi to Moscow by Air India.

Discussions were also held between the delegations of Government of India and USSR for the joint production of civil transport aircraft but views in this regard are yet to be crystallized.

Loss to flying Aircraft by Bird-hit incidents

3376. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 42 given in Rajya Sabha on the 2nd November, 1988 and state:

(a) what is the number of accidents caused by bird hits after September, 1988; and

(b) what was the total loss due to bird hit accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) There has been no accident to any aircraft due to bird-hits since September, 1988. However, there have been 66 incidents of comparatively minor nature during this period in which the estimated cost of repairs to aircraft is Rs. 11,72,885/-.

Loss suffered by Vayudoot

3377. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what is the cumulative loss suffered by Vayudoot during the last four years; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to rectify this?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) The cumulative loss suffered by Vayudoot during the last four years amount to Rs. 10.18 crores approximately.

(b) The Government has provided adequate budgetary support for Vayudoot from time to time and assisted in securing short term inter-corporate loans. Vayudoot has also been assisted in securing concessions in landing and RNF charges, payment of sales tax on